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Workforce News



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Workforce Services

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

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Invest in the Future...Invest in People!



What makes the economy of Southeastern Utah run? Capital investment? Exports? Perhaps production for local consumption? Sure, while all of these are needed there is another very important factor that is often overlooked :people. The skills and education of the people in the region are critical ingredients of economic growth and

development. If the level of investment in people – in human capital – is not in line with that of other investments, the overall development of the region will be hampered. Employers need a labor force that is highly skilled to be competitive in the global economy. Workers need higher education and skills to demand higher wages and a

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More information available online!

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

Invest in the Future...Invest in People!

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better standard of living. For the Southeast, and rural areas in general, making a heavy investment into human capital can seem like a tall order. Money, distance, low population density, and – for many rural areas, let's admit it – tradition, all play a role in keeping higher education investment on the back burner. Luckily, Southeastern Utah is home to a number of fine higher education institutions that are working hard to provide opportunities to people throughout the region.

One of these institutions

is the College of Eastern Utah in Price. In addition to providing more than 400 courses in 60 fields of study, the college recently received a \$2.7-million grant to create a world-class energy training center. This center, when in operation, has the potential of training 2,100 people a year for careers in the mining and energy industries. Its focus on the core competencies of the industry will be complemented with attention to increasing the proficiency of students in the areas of math and science.

Also under the aegis of the College of Eastern Utah, but tucked into the corner of southeastern Utah, is the San Juan Campus in Blanding. Beyond classes in a number of fields, the college is becoming a regional hub for healthcare education. Beginning in the fall semester of 2006 a new, \$6.3 million, Health Sciences Library will open with 5,000 square feet of library space and multiple distance education camera rooms.

The region is also home to the Southeast Applied Technology College. Situated in Price,

the ATC provides courses for a number of certificate programs and specialized fields. The addition of the ATC to the region rounds out the education opportunities open to workers and students alike. It also provides an invaluable resource to industry by responding to the ever-present need for skills training and certification renewal.

Finally, any overview of institutions of higher education in the Southeast would be incomplete without mentioning the role of Utah State University's extension programs. From Moab or Blanding, students of all ages are able to take classes that lead to degrees from Bachelor's all the way to Doctorate.

Increasing education opportunities for all residents of the Southeast is an important and necessary part of their economic development plan. Without investment in the human capital of the region, residents and businesses will find their ability to compete in a global – yes, Blanding really does compete with Beijing – market.

Check it Out



Our new Job Vacancy Study
at [http://jobs.utah.gov/
opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2005/](http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2005/).

County News

Carbon: Employment gains in the mining and transportation industries pushed the county's year-over job growth rate to 4.1 percent in September. This was especially impressive in light of sizable job losses in construction, local education (the closing of East Carbon High School), and other services industries. Gross taxable sales grew 24.7 percent in the third quarter, up more than \$21.5 million over the same quarter last year. Increased retail and wholesale trade sales made up 75 percent of this growth. Wholesale durable goods sales were of particular note, alone making up 26 percent of the total increase.

Emery: September saw a 2.0 percent year-over increase in the number of jobs in the county. This was largely made possible through increases in the county's mining, transportation, and utilities industries. Construction posted an unusually large drop, which may be caused by an anomaly in the data. Permit-authorized construction data points to an increase in activity, with total construction valuation increasing 2 percent and the number of new dwelling units increasing 10 percent. Data on gross taxable sales shows a pronounced 26-percent increase in the third quarter over the same period last year.

Grand: According to the latest data, employment in Grand County grew 6.0 percent in the year between September 2004 and 2005. However, this number is misleading due to an error in data reporting. The large gains reported in manufacturing are for a firm actually located in another county. Future data will reflect this change and show manufacturing in a sharp decline – even though it isn't. Taking this data error into account, the county still posted solid job increases in a number of industries (in particular: mining, construction, retail trade, rental and leasing, healthcare, and recreation.) Year-over gross taxable sales grew a solid 8.5 percent in the third quarter, with a jump in recreation and accommodations sales leading the way.

San Juan: Beautiful San Juan County saw employment grow by 1.3 percent in September, when compared with the same quarter last year. The largest contributors to this increase were: manufacturing (specifically apparel contractors), private and state education services, and healthcare. However, some sharp declines in retail trade, local government, and recreation (due largely to the continuing problems at Lake Powell) kept employment from growing at a faster rate. Gross taxable sales posted a 20.8-percent year-over increase in the third quarter. Strong retail and wholesale trade sales, coupled with a rise in purchases of business capital for manufacturing, made up 71 percent of the total year-over increase. Permit-authorized construction in the county was hot in the third quarter.

What's Up?

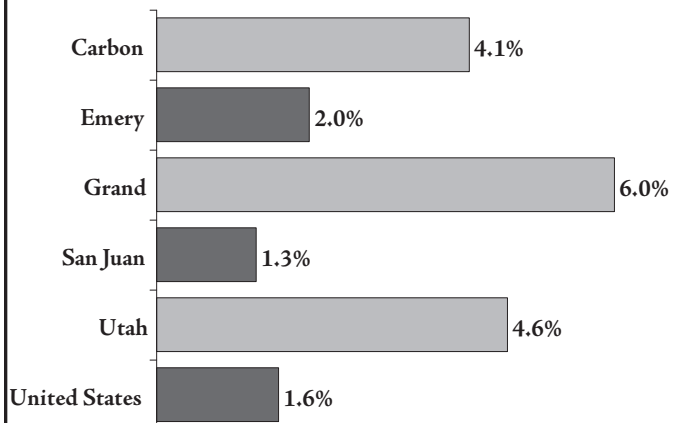
✧ Bluff, in San Juan County, hosted the 8th Annual International Balloon Festival in early 2006. The festivities included the Coyote and Hare Race; Glow-in; Bluff Elementary Navajo Taco Sale Fundraiser; and flights over the Valley of the Gods. New this year was a Southwest Cuisine Cookoff between balloon pilots and locals.

✧ Representatives of the Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) presented the Carbon County Recreation and Transportation Special Service District Board with a letter including an official pledge from BBC of \$1 million to Carbon County for improvements to the Nine Mile Road in 2006. The letter states that the \$1 million is intended to support those planning and maintenance efforts that allow Carbon County to both begin work on improvements, as well as a means to leverage the county's activity with state and federal officials as proof of the county's intentions to improve the road.

Southeast Utah: Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

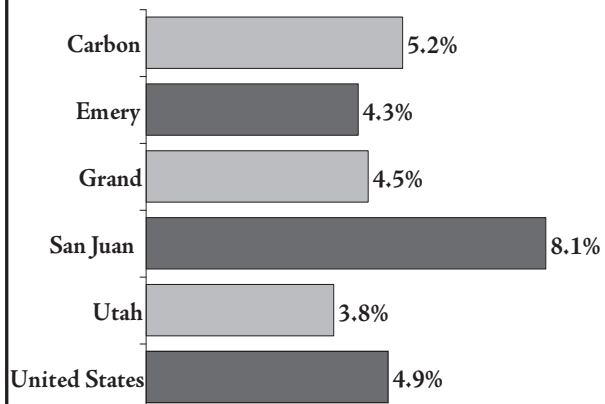
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**Change in Nonfarm Jobs
September 2004 to September 2005**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate
December 2006**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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